

## Commanding General's Policy Statement on Hazing

The Marine Corps has many time-honored customs and traditions. Abuse, maltreatment, and hazing are not part of them. No unit worth serving in allows such behavior to be tolerated. Hazing is the mark of the unprofessional and the undisciplined. It destroys cohesion and unit morale. I will not tolerate any form of hazing or abuse. This prohibition extends to the hazing of recruits and junior Marines... as well as new drill instructors and/or recruiters.



Hazing is defined as any conduct whereby one military member, regardless of service or rank, causes another military member, regardless of service or rank, to suffer or be exposed to an activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, or oppressive. It includes any activity that is designed to harass or persecute. Hazing does not have to involve physical contact; it can be verbal or psychological in nature. Soliciting or coercing another to engage in any such activity is also considered hazing. Actual or implied consent to acts of hazing does not eliminate the liability of the perpetrator.

The responsibility to train and mentor those we lead is a sacred duty that will determine the future of our Corps. I will not allow that duty to be diminished by hazing. Leaders who teach and mentor their recruits and Marines gain their respect, trust, and loyalty. Their subordinates know their intrinsic value and believe in themselves. Leaders who demean, abuse, and exploit their recruits or fellow Marines do the opposite--they demonstrate a warped model of "me-first" leadership and teach them that they are insignificant and unimportant, perpetuating a cycle of abuse that will hurt our Marine Corps and its readiness far into the future.

This is a leadership issue. I expect leaders of every rank to know the difference between leadership and hazing and to refuse to tolerate practices which demean or belittle others. I will hold the chain of command strictly accountable for any such activity.

If you believe that you are victim of hazing or reprisal, notify your chain of command via Request Mast or contact the MCRD/WRR Equal Opportunity Representative, Gunnery Sergeant Edwin O. Rodriguez at (619) 524-8730 immediately for assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. W. Bierman". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "B".

J. W. BIERMAN  
Brigadier General, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding General